

**AMENDMENT**

Please enter the following amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for brewing tea comprising:

a blend tank for blending ingredients;

a first heat exchanger connected to said blend tank for heating water circulated between said blend tank and ~~through~~ said first heat exchanger;

a brew tank connected to said blend tank and in fluid communication with said heated water for receiving said heated water from said blend tank;

tea bags disposed in said brew tank in contact with said heated water for brewing liquid tea concentrate; and

a pump in fluid communication with said blend tank, said first heat exchanger and said brew tank for pumping said water therethrough.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said apparatus further comprises a source of liquid sweetener connected to said blend tank for mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

32. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said apparatus further comprises a cooling system connected to said blend tank for cooling said concentrate.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 32 wherein said apparatus further comprises~~ Apparatus for brewing tea comprising:

a blend tank for blending ingredients;

a first heat exchanger connected to said blend tank for heating water circulated through said first heat exchanger;

a brew tank connected to said blend tank and in fluid communication with said heated water;

tea bags disposed in said brew tank in contact with said heated water for brewing liquid tea concentrate;

a pump in fluid communication with said blend tank, said first heat exchanger and said brew tank for pumping said water therethrough;

a source of liquid sweetener connected to said blend tank for mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate;

a cooling system connected to said blend tank for cooling  
said concentrate; and

a mixing tank connected to said cooling system and to a  
water source for mixing water with said concentrate to  
produce a liquid tea beverage.

34. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein said  
apparatus further comprises a second heat exchanger connected to said blend tank  
for heating said liquid sweetener prior to mixing said sweetener with said  
concentrate.

35. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 34 wherein said  
apparatus further comprises a first mass flow meter connected to said blend tank  
for measuring the quantity of water.

36. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein said  
apparatus further comprises a second mass flow meter connected to said source of  
liquid sweetener for measuring the quantity of liquid sweetener.

37. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 36 wherein said  
apparatus further comprises a source of flavoring connected to said blend tank for  
flavoring said concentrate.

38. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein said  
apparatus further comprises tea bag squeezing apparatus disposed in said brew  
tank for squeezing concentrate from said tea bags.

39. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said tea bag squeezing apparatus comprises a hoist connected to a squeeze plate for squeezing said tea bags.

40. (Currently amended) Apparatus for brewing tea comprising:

a blend tank for blending ingredients;

a first heat exchanger connected to said blend tank for heating water circulated between said blend tank and said first heat exchanger;

a brew tank connected to said blend tank for receiving heated water from said blend tank and brewing tea;

a lifting base disposed in said brew tank;

a plurality of tea bags disposed on said lifting base;

lifting means connected to said lifting base for raising and lowering said lifting base relative to said brew tank; and

a pump in fluid communication with said blend tank, said first heat exchanger and said brew tank for circulating heated water therethrough and into contact with said tea bags for brewing tea concentrate.

41. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 40 wherein said apparatus further comprises a holding mechanism connected to said brew tank with said tea bags being disposed between said holding mechanism and said lifting base for squeezing said concentrate from said tea bags.

42. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein said apparatus further comprises a tank lid removably attached to said brew tank and to said holding mechanism for sealing said brew tank and preventing exposure of said concentrate to outside air.

43. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 42 wherein said holding mechanism comprises:~~ Apparatus for brewing tea comprising:

a blend tank for blending ingredients;

a first heat exchanger connected to said blend tank for heating water;

a brew tank connected to said blend tank for brewing tea;

a lifting base disposed in said brew tank;

a plurality of tea bags disposed on said lifting base;

lifting means connected to said lifting base for raising and lowering said lifting base relative to said brew tank;

a pump in fluid communication with said blend tank, said first heat exchanger and said brew tank for circulating heated water therethrough and into contact with said tea bags for brewing tea concentrate;

a holding mechanism connected to said brew tank with said tea bags being disposed between said holding mechanism and said lifting base for squeezing said concentrate from said tea bags;

a tank lid removably attached to said brew tank and to said holding mechanism for sealing said brew tank and preventing exposure of said concentrate to outside air;

a squeeze plate removable attached to said brew tank;

a hold plate disposed between said squeeze plate and said lifting base for squeezing said tea bags between said lifting base and said hold plate; and

a plurality of support rods connecting said squeeze plate and said hold plate.

44. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 43 wherein said apparatus further comprises a plurality of vertical rods slidably disposed through

said squeeze plate and connected at one end to said tank lid and at the other end to said lifting base.

45. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 44 wherein said lifting means comprises a hoist connected to said tank lid.

46. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 45 wherein said apparatus further comprises a source of liquid sweetener connected to said blend tank for mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

47. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 46 wherein said apparatus further comprises a cooling system connected to said blend tank for cooling said concentrate.

48. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein said apparatus further comprises a mixing tank connected to said cooling system and to a water source for mixing water with said concentrate to produce a liquid tea beverage.

49. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein said apparatus further comprises a second heat exchanger connected to said blend tank for heating said liquid sweetener prior to mixing said sweetener with said concentrate.

50. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein said apparatus further comprises a first mass flow meter connected to said blend tank for measuring the quantity of water.

51. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 50 wherein said apparatus further comprises a second mass flow meter connected to said source of liquid sweetener for measuring the quantity of liquid sweetener.

52. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 51 wherein said apparatus further comprises a source of flavoring connected to said blend tank for flavoring said concentrate.

53. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein said apparatus further comprises filtering means connected to said brew tank for filtering said concentrate.

54. (New) The apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said pump circulates said liquid tea concentrate between said blend tank and said brew tank.